

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 24, 29, 50, and 52 have been amended; claims 5, 27, 28, 49, 53, and 58 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new claim 59, corresponding to dependent claim 55 rewritten in independent form, has been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-26, 29-48, 50-52, 54-57, and 59 will be pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Final Office Action, claims 1-4, 9, 12-14, 17, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,168,691 to Errani ("Errani"); claims 24, 25, 27, 30, 34, 50-52, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,204,377 to Lancaster et al. ("Lancaster"); claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Errani in view of Lancaster; and claims 31-33 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster in view of Errani.

Also in the outstanding Final Office Action, claims 18-23, 36-48, and 57 were allowed. Claims 5-8, 11, 15, 16, 26, 28, 29, 35, 53, 55, and 56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 5, indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. For this reason, claim 1 is now allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration

and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims are requested.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 28, as well as claim 27 from which claim 28 depended. Additionally, dependent claim 29 has been amended to correct its dependency from claim 28 to claim 24, to reflect the incorporation of the subject matter of prior claim 28 into claim 24. For this reason, claim 24 is now allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 24 and its dependent claims are requested.

Independent claim 50 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 53 which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner. For this reason, claim 50 is now allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 50 and its dependent claims are requested.

In reviewing the pending claims, Applicants found a typographical error in claim 52, where the term "fixed wrapping surface" was used instead of "fixed wrapping structure." Claim 52 has been amended to correct this error.

Claims 2-4, 6-17, 25, 26, 29-35, 51, 52, and 54-56, all depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 24, and 50, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 24, and 50 are allowable. In addition, at least some of the dependent claims recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore at least some are also separately patentable.

New independent claim 59 has been added. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 55 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 59 represents claim 55, including any intervening dependent claims, rewritten in independent form. For at least this reason, claim 59 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-4, 6-26, 29-48, 50-52, 54-57, and 59 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 1, 24, 29, and 50 and the addition of new claim 59 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

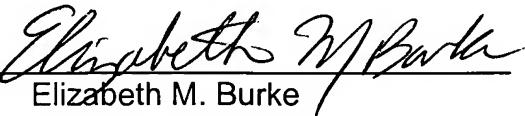
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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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